United Nations E/CN.5/2008/6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 November 2007

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-sixth session
6-15 February 2008
Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: emerging issues: "Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda"

Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note is prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/18, in which the Council decided to include the item entitled "Emerging issues" in the programme of work of the Commission for Social Development. The Bureau of the Commission, after consultation with its regional groups, decided that the topic for discussion under "Emerging issues" (agenda item 3 (c)) would be "Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda". This note has been prepared by the Secretariat to facilitate the discussion. It provides an overview of the background, practicalities and resources related to mainstreaming disability in the development agenda in the context of the recent adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

* E/CN.5/2008/1.

07-61210 (E) 181207

I. Background

1. Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda is a strategy for achieving equality for persons with disabilities. Governments, international organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations are working with renewed vigour towards the goal of equality following the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in December 2006 (General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I). The documents and recommendations mentioned in the present note represent a small part of the existing guidance on mainstreaming of persons with disabilities into the international development agenda.

2. There are approximately 650 million persons with disabilities in the world, or 10 per cent of the global population. An estimated 80 per cent of these persons live in developing countries, many in conditions of poverty. In both developed and developing countries, evidence suggests that persons with disabilities are disproportionately represented among the world's poor and tend to be poorer than their counterparts without disabilities. It is estimated that of the world's poorest people, meaning those who live on less than one dollar a day and who lack access to basic necessities such as food, clean water, clothing and shelter, 1 in 5 is a person with disabilities.[1] Given that persons with disabilities represent such a significant portion of the population, and are more likely to live in poverty than their peers without disabilities, ensuring that they are integrated into all development activities is essential in order to achieve international development goals.

3. There is a strong bidirectional link between poverty and disability. Poverty may cause disability through malnutrition, poor health care, and dangerous living conditions. Case studies in developing countries show that higher disability rates are associated with higher rates of illiteracy, poor nutritional status, lower immunization coverage, lower birth weight, higher rates of unemployment and underemployment, and lower occupational mobility.[1] Disability can cause poverty by preventing the full participation of persons with disabilities in the economic and social life of their communities, especially if the appropriate supports and accommodations are not available.[2]

4. In addition to representing a key target group under Millennium Development Goal 1 ("Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger"), persons with disabilities are also key targets when considering each of the other Goals. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization estimates that 98 per cent of children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school.[3] Women with disabilities experience double discrimination as women and as persons with disabilities. Children with disabilities in poor developing countries often have little to no access to health care. Many maternal health facilities around the world lack staff with knowledge of providing care to pregnant women with disabilities, and information on the topic is scarce. Effective strategies to combat diseases such as

[1] Ann Elwan, "Poverty and disability: a survey of the literature" (World Bank, 1999), available from http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPOVERTY/Resources/WDR/Background/elwan.pdf.

[2] World Bank website on data and statistics on disability, at http://www.worldbank.org/disability.

[3] Website of the Flagship on Education for All and the Right to Education for Persons with Disabilities: Towards Inclusion, at http://www.unesco.org/education/efa/know_sharing/flagship_initiatives/disability_last_version.shtml.

HIV/AIDS and malaria include the provision of health education, prevention and promotion; however, this information is often not available in formats accessible to persons with varying types of disabilities. Issues of environmental sustainability are particularly relevant to persons with disabilities who may have less capacity to adapt to environmental changes in their surroundings. Persons with disabilities continue to be largely absent from international development efforts, and there is an urgent need for existing and future partnerships for development, addressed by the eighth Goal, to include them in all activities.

5. The high numbers of persons with disabilities who are disproportionately represented among the world's most marginalized groups have a profound significance with respect to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, which thus far seems to have gone largely unnoticed in the international discourse on the Goals. The Millennium Development Goals, in fact, cannot be achieved if persons with disabilities are not included in these efforts. We are now at the halfway point to the target date of 2015, yet in *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2007*,[4] persons with disabilities as a group are not mentioned, and the issue of disability is briefly mentioned twice. *The Human Development Report 2006*[5] discusses persons with disabilities within the development context of sanitation. It is hoped that current efforts to integrate disability within the United Nations system will increase the importance of persons with disabilities in such reports in the future.

II. Practicalities of mainstreaming disability in development

6. There is currently no officially accepted definition of mainstreaming disability. However, the experience with defining gender mainstreaming may provide insight about how to proceed to define disability mainstreaming. The concept of gender mainstreaming was defined in July 1997, by the Economic and Social Council in the agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system, as follows:

> Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.

The process of mainstreaming disability in the development agenda may be viewed in a similar manner.

7. Given the wide scope of contexts, actors and activities required to fully include persons with disabilities in the development agenda, it may be helpful to consider the process in the light of the "no-gap policy". The no-gap policy is a

[4] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2007* (New York, 2007), available from http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/mdg2007.pdf.

[5] United Nations Development Programme, *The Human Development Report 2006* (New York, 2006), available from http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2006/.

concept which illustrates that no entity, whether it be part of the United Nations system, a Government ministry or a non-governmental organization (NGO), can achieve the goal of equality for persons with disabilities on its own. Rather, an interconnected network of actors is required to reach this goal. For example, in order for a person with disabilities using a wheelchair to access decent work, the person needs to be able to physically move in and out of his or her home; needs to be able to access the public space and transportation; and needs to be able to access the work facilities, in terms of both the built environment and its information and communications systems. Different entities need to ensure that their respective spheres of responsibility provide the necessary opportunities and access to persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others. If any one element of the network fails in this obligation, persons are not able to reap the benefit from the other elements. In order for them to be integrated and included in the development agenda, a comprehensive and holistic approach is required, demonstrating why a mainstreaming strategy is useful and necessary.

8. Efforts to incorporate and include persons with disabilities into the development activities have been gaining momentum over the past several decades. For example, in 1997, the United Nations, in collaboration with the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES) in Finland, published *Disability Dimension in Development Action: Manual on Inclusive Planning*.[6] The Manual is meant to serve as a tool with which to translate development theories into good practices, and "presents step-by-step advice on how to improve the quality of development policies, programmes and projects by exercising sensitivity to the disability dimension at various phases of the mainstream development programme or project planning cycle".

9. Another publication that provides guidelines for integrating and including persons with disabilities into society is the *Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol: From Exclusion to Equality, Realizing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.[7] The Handbook, which was jointly prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, provides practical guidelines to assist "parliamentarians and others in efforts to realize the Convention so that persons with disabilities can achieve the transition from exclusion to equality".

10. Various national and regional development agencies, as well as NGOs, have issued publications and strategic plans addressing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development. In addition, the Internet provides ever-increasing sources of information on persons with disabilities in development. The adoption and eventual entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should provide impetus for further study and practice on this critical development issue within international, regional, national and local organizations.

11. Currently there are few examples of mainstreaming disability in development activities but this situation is expected to change rapidly following the adoption of

[6] Revised online version 2003 available from http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/toolaction/FF-DisalibilityDim0103_b1.pdf.

[7] HR/PUB/07/6, available from the United Nations Enable website at http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=110.

the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The integration of persons with disabilities in all development efforts should not be limited to the benefits they can derive from development. Rather, it is also imperative that persons with disabilities be increasingly represented in the management of development activities and organizations at all levels.

12. The promotion of decent work is one of the key factors in ensuring that persons with disabilities benefit from development on an equal basis with others, and are included in guiding and implementing the development agenda. Studies have shown that in developing countries, 80-90 per cent of persons with disabilities of working age are unemployed, whereas in industrialized countries, the figure is between 50 and 70 per cent.[8] Access to education and training, access to microcredit schemes and entrepreneurial opportunities, inclusive and non-discriminatory human resources policies, reasonable accommodation in the workplace, and anti-discrimination legislation are some of the key factors that contribute to the creation of equal opportunities in the open job market for persons with disabilities. Employers often resist employing persons with disabilities because they believe persons with disabilities will be unable to fully perform their tasks and responsibilities and will raise labour costs. However, evidence shows that persons with disabilities have high performance ratings and retention rates, as well as better attendance records than their colleagues without disabilities.[7]

13. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has issued numerous publications focused on the objective of decent work and the socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities. For example, in 2002, ILO published *Disability and Poverty Reduction Strategies*[9] to "contribute to the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities living in poverty by complementing the social protection approach proposed by the (World Bank poverty reduction strategy paper) Sourcebook", which includes guidance on including disability issues during the poverty reduction strategy paper process.

14. Institutional capacity-building is another important feature in integrating disability issues into development programming. The staff of Governments, the United Nations system, donor agencies, educational institutions, and civil society organizations need to be educated and equipped with the knowledge and skills to understand disability issues and to create programming and environments that promote the full participation of persons with disabilities.

15. Within the United Nations system, there are efforts under way to promote the awareness, knowledge, and integration of disability issues. These include General Assembly resolution 61/106, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to implement progressively standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system, including major renovations to United Nations buildings. The Secretary-General is addressing these standards and guidelines in three main areas: information, including information technology; human resources, including recruitment and training processes and the management of disability among staff; and the physical facilities, including access to premises for staff, delegates, and/or visitors with disabilities. An Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as called for by the

[8] "Disabled still face hurdles in job market", *The Washington Times*, 5 December 2005.

[9] Available from http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/skills/disability/download/discp_per.pdf.

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), has been established, open to all agencies represented in CEB. The Inter-Agency Support Group is undertaking a joint effort to establish guidelines for including the rights of persons with disabilities in United Nations country programming.

16. The post of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development, mandated since 1994 to monitor the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, has also been involved in advocating for Governments to include and integrate persons with disabilities into national legislation and programming.

17. To promote effective and efficient mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in the development agenda, there is potential for a more streamlined approach to disability issues within the United Nations system, by improving the complementarity and synergy of the three main disability instruments: the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex), and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.[10] This issue was presented in more detail in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/62/157), and is an area that may merit further discussion.

18. There is growing recognition among organizations engaged in development of the need to include persons with disabilities in development activities; however, there remains much room for expansion of such programmes, as well as for more documentation of good practices. The above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General states that the World Bank found that during the fiscal years 2002-2006 only 5 per cent of new lending commitments had a disability component (ibid., para. 11). In March 2007, the World Bank issued a guidance note to assist its projects in better incorporating the needs of persons with disabilities, integrating a disability perspective into ongoing sector and thematic work programmes, and adopting an integrated and inclusive approach to disability.[11]

III. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a tool for mainstreaming and development

19. There is a history of separating human rights instruments and activities from those of development. However, the Convention is intended as a human rights instrument with an explicit, social development dimension; it is both a human rights treaty and a development tool. The Convention clarifies and qualifies how all categories of rights apply to persons with disabilities, and identifies areas where adaptations have to be made in order for persons with disabilities to effectively exercise their rights, as well as areas where their rights have been violated, and where protection of rights must be reinforced. It also highlights pragmatic and

[10] General Assembly resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action as set forth in A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, section VIII, recommendation I (IV).

[11] *Social Analysis and Disability: A Guidance Note: Incorporating Disability-Inclusive Development into Bank-Supported Projects* (World Bank, March 2007, available from http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DISABILITY/Resources/280658-1172606907476/SAnalysisDis.pdf.

action-oriented measures to be undertaken by States parties in support of development programmes that are inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities. This represents a paradigm shift within the development community, as it identifies disability as an issue to be considered in all programming, rather than as a stand-alone thematic issue. Within this framework, there remains room for disability-specific actions and programming, based on the needs of the specific context. The Convention obligates States parties to undertake proactively the appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities participate in all facets of society, on an equal basis with others.

20. There are established efforts to mainstream human rights within the United Nations system. In the 1997 report of the Secretary-General on renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform (A/51/950 and Corr.1 and Add.1-7) he called for all entities of the United Nations system to mainstream human rights into their programmes. Subsequently, in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (see General Assembly resolution 60/1), world leaders called for closer cooperation between OHCHR and all relevant United Nations bodies (General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 126). Among the positive milestones during this process, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has noted the adoption of an inter-agency plan on strengthening human rights-related United Nations actions at the country level, and the integration of human rights in key inter-agency policy documents and programming guidelines, such as those for United Nations resident coordinators, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the common country assessment.[12] Efforts are currently under way in the United Nations to include the rights of persons with disabilities and related concerns explicitly within such guidelines, and at all stages of processes including engagement, country analysis, strategic planning, and monitoring and evaluation. In response to the calls for the mainstreaming of human rights within the United Nations, a Statement of Common Understanding[13] was developed, which specifically addresses a human rights-based approach to the development cooperation and development programming by United Nations bodies.

21. Civil society organizations played an instrumental role during the negotiation process of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Continuing significant and cooperative relations among civil society, Governments, international organizations and multilateral and bilateral donors will remain a key requirement for successful development activities that benefit society as a whole.

IV. Lessons to be learned from mainstreaming gender and HIV/AIDS

22. Gender and HIV/AIDS mainstreaming have both been largely accepted as essential frameworks in international development programming, and there is much to be learned from these experiences with mainstreaming.

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[12] Written submission of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment.

[13] Available from http://www.undp.org/governance/docs/HR_Guides_CommonUnderstanding.pdf.

23. The literature on both HIV/AIDS and gender mainstreaming stresses the importance of concrete, measurable actions within specific sectors and contexts, to ensure that mainstreaming efforts are actually implemented. While the term mainstreaming describes a broad-reaching goal, the actions required to achieve it consist of measurable concrete steps taken by individuals such as Government ministers, departmental heads, directors of organizations, and team leaders. Disability issues need to be incorporated into organizational policy and practice in the form of job descriptions, mission and vision statements, and budget allocations.

24. At the national level, implementation guidelines on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS stress the importance of focusing efforts not just on comprehensive national plans, but also on plans for specific sectors such as education, health, transport, food security, social services, employment, and local government.[14] Concrete plans and activities are then developed and implemented by individual actors within each sector in the context and specificities of their sector. These activities contribute to the overall national goal of integrating and including the target group. South-South cooperation efforts offer a promising opportunity for national Governments to share and benefit from such experiences.

25. The basic principles of mainstreaming efforts as described by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and adapted here for disability, include the following:

(a) Responsibility for implementing the mainstreaming strategy is system-wide, and rests at the highest levels within agencies;

(b) Adequate accountability mechanisms for monitoring progress need to be established;

(c) Initial identification of issues and problems across all areas of activity should be such that differences and disparities between persons with and without disabilities can be diagnosed;

(d) Clear political will and allocation of adequate resources for mainstreaming — including additional financial and human resources, if necessary — are important for translation of the concept into practice;

(e) Disability mainstreaming requires that efforts be made to broaden the equitable participation of persons with disabilities at all levels of decision-making;

(f) Mainstreaming does not replace the need for targeted, disability-specific policies and programmes, and positive legislation; nor does it do away with the need for disability units or focal points.[15]

26. Integrating disability into the development agenda requires different strategies in different contexts. The Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs identifies strategies for key areas in gender mainstreaming. There are several areas that are particularly relevant within the context of persons with disabilities, namely:[16]

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[14] UNAIDS/World Bank/United Nations Development Programme, *Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in Sectors & Programmes: an implementation guide for national responses* (Geneva, September 2005).

[15] http://www2.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/gender/newsite2002/about/defin.htm.

[16] Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, *Gender Mainstreaming: An Overview* (United Nations, New York, 2002), available from http://www.un.org/womenwatch.

(a) *Policy analysis and development.* The impact of policy decisions may vary for persons with disabilities as compared with their peers without disability. A perspective that includes persons with disabilities leads to a more informed view of policy options and impacts, as well as enables decision makers to better understand how to formulate policies that narrow the gap between persons with disabilities and their peers without disability. The goal is to ensure that disability issues are routinely included when assessing policy issues, options and impacts;

(b) *Technical assistance.* Programmes should be assessed to ensure that persons with disabilities are included, and that the manner in which activities are structured does not prevent persons with disabilities from participating and benefiting on an equal basis with others. Of equal importance is ensuring that persons with disabilities are adequately represented among the providers of technical assistance at all organizational levels;

(c) *Data collection, analysis and dissemination.* In many countries, there is a scarcity of reliable data on persons with disabilities. Capacity-building is required in order to equip researchers with the skills to design studies that will adequately gather data on persons with all types of disabilities. It is important to ensure that data-collection methods are available in a variety of accessible formats and methodologies.

27. Poverty reduction strategy papers need to be developed and written in ways that allow and promote the active participation and benefit of persons with disabilities at all stages of the process, including poverty assessment, target-setting, programme prioritization, and monitoring and evaluation planning.[17]

28. There is a risk of "mainstreaming fatigue" on the part of donors, particularly as the theory of mainstreaming is easily promoted; however, the practicalities of how to operationalize it may be perceived as more complicated. It would therefore be beneficial to document and disseminate examples of development programmes that have been created and implemented in ways that include and promote the participation of persons with disabilities. The United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability has been and continues to be a source of funding for such efforts by NGOs.

29. There is need for research and analysis to assist policymakers in determining the appropriate balance between mainstreaming strategies and targeted disability-specific approaches, frequently referred to as the "twin-track approach". However, all efforts should be guided by the overall goal to integrate and include persons with disabilities into all aspects of development programming. Finding the appropriate methods of doing so will not be possible without the participation of persons with disabilities at every stage, as reinforced by the motto of the disability community: "Nothing about us without us".

V. Discussion points

30. **The Commission may wish to consider the following suggested discussion points:**

(a) **The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities offers an ideal opportunity to consolidate disability-related activities, and to develop**

[17] World Bank PovertyNet website, at http://povlibrary.worldbank.org/files/5301_overview.pdf.

policies and structures that ensure that persons with disabilities are mainstreamed within the United Nations system. Lessons learned from gender and HIV/AIDS mainstreaming can provide valuable guidance, and there are an increasing number of tools to inform and guide this process, which when coupled with strong political will can lead to significant positive gains;

(b) The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities also provides the opportunity for human rights and development actors to actively combine and integrate these two areas. New and innovative thinking and collaboration are required to utilize the Convention so as to bring the maximum benefit to persons with disabilities and society. It is both a human rights and a development instrument that elucidates how all categories of rights apply to persons with disabilities, and identifies practical measures to create development programmes that are inclusive of, and accessible to, persons with disabilities;

(c) Halfway to the Millennium Development Goals target date of 2015, persons with disabilities remain conspicuously absent from programming and discourse on achievement of the Goals. Persons with disabilities represent approximately 10 per cent of the world's population. Eighty per cent of persons with disabilities live in developing countries, and the failure to include and integrate them in all development activities will mean failure to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) Employers often resist employing persons with disabilities because of discriminatory attitudes and practices and the mistaken belief that employees with disabilities will necessarily entail high costs for the employer. The truth is that the cost of accommodating workers with disabilities can be minimal, with many requiring no special accommodation at all.[18] Ensuring that persons with disabilities can access decent work is of critical importance in order for them to be represented in the development agenda on an equal basis with others;

(e) Increased access to data and statistics will increase the ability to ensure that programmes are targeting the areas of greatest need. The development and dissemination of such data, as well as knowledge including good practices, lessons learned, and sources of expertise, will assist all actors in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the local, national and international levels;

(f) The integral involvement of civil society, including of organizations of persons with disabilities, in national and international mechanisms is an essential ingredient in effectively guiding the development agenda towards integrating and including persons with disabilities.

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[18] Information on the 2007 International Day of Disabled Persons, "Decent work for persons with disabilities", from the United Nations Enable website, at http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=110.

United Nations E/CN.5/2008/7

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 November 2007

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-sixth session
6-15 February 2008
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

First review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: preliminary assessment

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Prepared in response to Commission for Social Development resolution 45/1, the present report provides a preliminary assessment of the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Apart from having a regional dimension, the review focuses in particular on ageing-specific policies, on efforts to mainstream ageing concerns and on a participatory bottom-up evaluation of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. In addition, salient trends and responses to challenges and opportunities of ageing are described and analysed.

* E/CN.5/2008/1.

07-59811 (E) 181207

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 45/1, the Commission for Social Development requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its forty-sixth session, a report that included the analysis of preliminary conclusions of the first review and appraisal exercise of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002[1] along with the identification of prevalent and emerging issues and related policy options. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

2. Since the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Governments have introduced a wide range of policies and programmes aimed at addressing various challenges stemming from population ageing. The present report is based on submissions received from regional commissions of the United Nations as well as other information available to the Secretariat. A particular focus of the report is placed on ageing-specific policies, ageing-mainstreaming efforts and use of a participatory bottom-up methodology in the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action. The report also highlights recent developments in some key areas such as income security, the continuum of caregiving, human resource development in health care, importance of the age-related research-policy nexus, and the vital role of an age-friendly environment. The selected issues presented in the report are not intended to reflect any national, regional or global priority, and the examples of policies and programmes in different countries and regions are provided for illustrative purposes only. The final section, entitled "Planning for the future", contains conclusions and recommendations for further implementation of the Madrid Plan.

3. Owing to the fact that the present report is being published before regional review and appraisal processes of the Madrid Plan of Action are completed, the information presented below is inevitably of a preliminary nature. The presented findings should be viewed in conjunction with the note by the Secretary-General on regional implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/CN.5/2008/2), prepared by the regional commissions, which provides regional perspectives on the activities related to the implementation of the Madrid Plan and underlines key challenges in the regions.

II. First review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action: the process and preliminary results

4. The Madrid Plan of Action contains a provision that review and appraisal should be considered an essential part of the implementation process. The Commission for Social Development, as the body responsible for the follow-up activities in the context of the Plan was assigned to decide on the modalities of the review and appraisal.

5. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/14, invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a bottom-up approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action. The Commission for Social Development, in its resolution 42/1, decided to undertake the review and appraisal every five years. It its resolution 44/1, the Commission

[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I resolution 1, annex II.

endorsed the calendar for the first cycle of the review and appraisal and determined its global theme, "Addressing the challenges and opportunities of ageing". The first cycle of the review and appraisal was launched at the forty-fifth session of the Commission in 2007 and is scheduled to be concluded at its forty-sixth session in 2008. In the context of this exercise, the regional commissions were requested to identify appropriate modalities for conducting the regional review and appraisal and to convene regional activities and events during 2006-2007. The regional commissions were invited to forward the outcomes of their meetings and conferences to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-sixth session.

6. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) organized the High-level Meeting on the Regional Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing from 9 to 11 October 2007, in Macao, China. Within the framework of the Madrid Plan, the meeting paid particular attention to the priority areas of concern that were identified in preceding meetings of expert groups.

7. The report of the ESCAP High-level Meeting (ESID/HLM-MIPAA/INF.2) contains country assessments, which demonstrate that a gradual change in policies and programme approaches has occurred since the Second World Assembly on Ageing reflecting greater fiscal sensitivity in the allocation of public resources to meet the increasing needs of older persons. In the face of growing social security and long-term health-care concerns, many countries in the ESCAP region have developed long-term plans and policies to deal with ageing. National mechanisms have been put in place to oversee the development and implementation of projects and programmes related to ageing. The ESCAP report also noted that countries in the region with higher levels of socio-economic development were ahead of other countries in taking proactive measures on ageing. Inadequate allocation of funds and difficulties in acquiring expertise and knowledge continue to hinder Governments' efforts to develop more effective interventions to meet the growing demands of ageing societies. Currently, income security in old age, raising public awareness about the benefits of active ageing, and intergenerational solidarity preoccupy policy agendas on ageing in the majority of countries in the region.

8. Increasing awareness of ageing issues has also prompted many Governments to involve major national stakeholders in partnerships and enhance the effectiveness of joint efforts at all levels in tackling challenges brought by ageing. Many of the countries in the region are actively seeking collaboration with civil society organizations in preparing their national reviews and appraisals of the Madrid Plan of Action. Such collaboration and increased transparency help to link and bolster the value of bottom-up participatory approaches to the evaluation of the Madrid Plan. In fact, nearly half of the countries surveyed by ESCAP reported carrying out comprehensive analyses by using participatory tools such as client satisfaction surveys and focus groups research.

9. While Governments in the region are increasingly recognizing population ageing as a development issue, the record of mainstreaming ageing concerns in development agendas at the country level is mixed. Some of the difficulties encountered in mainstreaming ageing issues could be attributed to the lack of sufficient funds, inadequate training for implementation of programmes, and limited interdepartmental cooperation. When Governments began to accord higher levels of policy attention to ageing over the past five years, the need to mainstream ageing

into development policy areas in alignment with regional and global norms and standards became more obvious. For example, the Government of China included modalities for mainstreaming ageing concerns in the Tenth National Five Year Development Plan on Ageing, 2001-2005. Overall, in countries with higher levels of economic growth or affluence, good progress was achieved in mainstreaming ageing in development policies and creating supportive environments for active ageing.

10. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) organized the 2007 Ministerial Conference on Ageing from 6 to 8 November 2007 in León, Spain, which produced an overview of the ageing situation in the UNECE region and led to the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration. An expert group was formed to provide expert policy advice and assistance to an intergovernmental preparatory committee of the Conference. Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were active in the Preparatory Committee and contributed to the draft Ministerial Declaration. A Civil Society Forum and a Research Forum on Ageing took place in León on 5 November 2007.

11. A preliminary "Summary report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the UNECE region" was issued (ECE/AC.30/2007/4), which summarizes ageing-related policy activities and highlights priority areas. States members of the ECE region reported on a variety of policy-related actions with regard to each of the 10 commitments of the Regional Implementation Strategy adopted in 2002 at the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Berlin. Countries in the region have been innovative in responding to demographic ageing, mostly by adopting age-specific policies, for instance, in the areas of age discrimination; age-adequate infrastructure; economic, political, social and cultural participation and integration of older persons; adjusting social protection and health-care systems; promotion of lifelong learning; and supporting caregivers as well as strengthening long-term care systems. Although a majority of countries follow a holistic approach in their ageing policies, none mentioned specific efforts to mainstream ageing into other policy fields (ibid., para. 3). Meanwhile, mainstreaming across all policy areas at the local, national and international levels was identified by numerous countries as a major priority for ageing in the region during the next 5 to 10 years. Within the ECE region Germany, Malta, Portugal, Serbia and Switzerland reported having used specific participatory elements during the review and appraisal process. In addition, the vast majority of countries report strong involvement of civil society actors in the policy formulation process.

12. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) organized the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Brasilia (4-6 December 2007). ECLAC sent a questionnaire to Member States on ageing-related issues and issued a "Methodological Guide for the Participatory Evaluation of Policies and Programmes within the Framework of the Regional Strategy for Ageing".[2] The Regional Strategy was adopted in 2003 following the Second World Assembly on Ageing.[3] The Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference reviewed progress in the implementation of the Regional Strategy and identified priority areas for application of the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in

[2] See http://www.eclac.org.

[3] See http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/impl_map.html.

Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing in the next five years.

13. In the ECLAC region there were several successful examples of participatory evaluation of the Madrid Plan of Action. Argentina performed a bottom-up evaluation of the national programme for home care. The National Council of Human Rights of Older Persons in Brazil used a participatory process in the workplan to implement the "Law of human rights of older persons" (*Estatuto do Idoso*). Panama included a participatory approach to the national policy on ageing. Other countries drafted their national report on implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and the Regional Strategy with participatory methodology (Bolivia, Panama and Peru). Bolivia, Colombia and Peru developed a participatory evaluation of implementation of the Madrid Plan with the support of NGOs.

14. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organized an Expert Group Meeting on Ageing in Addis Ababa on 19 and 20 November 2007. A number of selected countries — Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritius, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania — were invited to attend and present country review and appraisal reports. The focus of the meeting was on receiving and deliberating on the contents of the "2007 Report on Ageing in Africa" produced by ECA; conducting an in-depth exploration of selected topics on ageing in Africa; receiving and discussing country review and appraisal reports; and charting the way forward.

15. In the context of mainstreaming ageing in the ECA region, the United Republic of Tanzania incorporated several cross-cutting issues pertaining to older persons and ageing in its National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty, which covers the period 2005-2010. Uganda set up a cross-ministerial, multi-sector working group consisting of representatives of the Ministries of Gender, Labour and Social Development; Agriculture; and Finance Planning and Economic Development, as well as two local NGOs. The task of the group is to mainstream ageing into health and nutrition policy.

16. In 2002, in the lead-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopted the Arab Plan of Action on Ageing to the Year 2012.[3] To mark the five years since the adoption of the Madrid Plan of Action, ESCWA organized a regional seminar in Amman on 20 and 21 November 2007. Besides reviewing the findings of country situations, the seminar took stock of regional experiences, identified good practices of implementation activities and priorities for the future, and adopted relevant recommendations.

III. Salient trends and responses to challenges and opportunities of ageing

A. Income security

17. As the number of older persons worldwide continues to grow, income security and pensions have become a key issue, but not only in developed countries where pension reforms have been under way for some time. As both the speed of ageing and the number of older persons in developing countries are starting to be

acknowledged in development circles, income security measures have come to the fore in those regions too, even though economic reforms in most developing countries have largely missed the income security requirements of older persons. It has become clear that other persons cannot rely solely on traditional family support measures in their old age; in fact, income insecurity is rising among the old. Even where pension coverage exists, rarely are these pensions indexed to inflation, coverage is low, and the level of the pension is woefully inadequate to cover even immediate needs of the retirees, particularly those who live alone and older women.

18. In response, Governments are taking a variety of approaches to develop social insurance coverage and implementing, when financially possible, non-contributory benefits or social pensions for older people. With nearly 80 per cent of older persons in developing countries lacking adequate income security, and with the majority of them without coverage in the informal sector, the development of programmes that complement traditional forms of security in old age provided by family or community becomes more urgent.[4]

19. Debates on expanding social protection programmes in developing countries continue and arguments in favour of its feasibility and benefits have gained more support. It is already clear that along with access to health care, income security and anti-poverty measures for older persons are the most important issues under discussion in nearly all developing countries and countries in transition. To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of relatively small public budgets in attaining these and older key social priorities, Governments are considering instruments that can improve the well-being of young and older generations rather than focusing on one particular group. Indeed, the Declaration from the Group of Eight Summit held in Germany, in June 2007, stated that "... social protection is an investment in a country's economic future and a cost-effective way of fighting poverty".[5]

20. Many in the development community have seen that increasing economic growth rates by themselves do not translate into lower poverty rates or increased social insecurity. For example, since the movement towards fully funded pension schemes during the late 1980s and early 1990s in Latin America, there are now even fewer workers covered by social protection because of the transformations that have taken place in labour markets. Fully funded pension funds have engaged mostly salaried workers. At the same time there is a greatly expanded uninsured informal sector workforce that accounts for approximately 47 per cent of the urban labour force in the region.[6]

21. However, donor policies that still insist on the containment of social spending continue to be common in countries experiencing donor dependency.[7] Arguments that the expansion of social protection systems beyond the civil service in developing countries is unaffordable still abound. There is evidence that even traditional social insurance schemes for civil servants and other salaried workers

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[4] *World Economic and Social Survey 2007: Development in an Ageing World* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.11.C.1), p. 89.

[5] G-8 Summit Declaration "Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy" (7 June 2007), para. 28.

[6] United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Conference News: Financing Social Policy (Geneva, 2007).

[7] "Issues in Social Protection. Social security for all: investing in global social and economic development. A consultation." ILO Discussion Paper 16 (Geneva, 2006).

that are pay-as-you-go and administered by Governments are being negatively impacted by the increase in dependency rates and out-migration. The latter is reducing contributions from active workers who are seeking higher relative salaries in jobs abroad. Out-migration is further accelerating the increase in dependency rates of pay-as-you-go systems. Governments should explore the portability of pension schemes among migrant workers and the feasibility of creating life insurance mechanisms and other forms of long-term savings for retirement that can be paid directly through remittances.

22. The International Labour Organization (ILO) argues that the issue of the "affordability" of systems obscures the benefits of social insurance, and that the granting of a pension of $1 per day would be the equivalent of less than 1 per cent of GDP in 2005 for 66 out of 100 developing countries.[7] The ILO 2009 International Labour Conference will take up this issue further with a discussion on developing effective plans of action to promote policies and strategies to ensure active, decent and secure old age.

23. In an effort to spearhead research and increase discussion on this important issue, the ILO launched a Global Campaign for Social Security and Coverage for All. This campaign is helping to change the development discourse by treating social security broadly understood, as both a human right and a necessity for an efficient market economy that brings social stability, economic development and social cohesion. This campaign includes the call for a "global security" floor which would include the development of a system of basic universal pensions for old age.[8] The number of bilateral agencies supporting the use of social insurance as a development tool is growing and includes the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) of Germany.

24. There is a mounting body of evidence that points towards social pensions (both universal and means-tested) promoting social cohesion, intergenerational relationships and poverty reduction benefits to whole families, not only older persons. Such pensions in Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa are now well known, and more Governments in developing countries are considering similar programmes.

25. In that context, Cambodia is looking at the possibility of creating a special social security fund for those working in the informal sector, such as farmers and independent professionals.[9] China, which is arguably confronting a myriad of problems in the provision of economic security for older persons owing to the sheer number of older persons, the size of the country and the prevalence of rural poverty and informal market activities, is creating a number of approaches. For example, China has gradually established a basic uniform old-age insurance system that covers all employees in urban areas; 188 million people were participating in the scheme by the end of 2006. The Government is also developing supplementary old-age insurance with contributions to annuities by both business and employees. In rural areas, where 60 per cent of older persons live, meeting the financial needs of older persons is more difficult. While the Government still emphasizes the role of family and land in providing for older persons, it is also studying the wider

[8] *International Social Security Review*, vol. 60, No. 2-3 (April-September 2007).

[9] ESCAP, High-level Meeting on the Regional Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, Macao, China, 2007: report of the Government of Cambodia.

establishment of old-age security systems in rural areas. There are already some ad hoc developments. By the end of 2006, 1,900 counties in 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities had established their own old-age social insurance systems, which currently reach more than 53.74 million farmers.[10] Viet Nam introduced a voluntary pension scheme for informal sector workers in 2006. On the other hand, insufficient data and lack of administrative capacity, along with limited fiscal resources, make it difficult for some countries to even consider such programmes. What is clear is that what is feasible in one country may not transfer well to another and that, as with all policies, individual solutions must be crafted to take account of national realities.

B. Intergenerational solidarity and care provision

26. Given the general context of population ageing, as well as changes in family structure, there has been an increasing need of care, including long-term care for older persons. The issue of intergenerational solidarity figures prominently in this regard. Changes in family composition towards the pre-eminence of the nuclear family have impacted conditions of intergenerational interdependence and care arrangements within families which have traditionally played the role of caregiver to family members at different stages of their lives.

27. Recent public debate has been centred on the provision of care to older persons and the quest for the best solutions in this area. However, older people should not be seen only as dependent and passive care receivers. They play an important role within their families and communities providing vital care to younger generations as well as other dependants, including other older persons. Older people continue to participate actively in family dynamics and in negotiating generational responsibility and support. Understanding these dynamics as well as the needs and resources of individuals, families and communities, is crucial for ageing policies that take an intergenerational dimension into account.

28. In countries with insufficient provision of public care, family remains the most important source of support, as in sub-Saharan Africa where the HIV/AIDS epidemic has orphaned many children, leaving them in the care of their grandparents. In developing countries especially, it is important to strengthen social protection schemes and to review and revise policies relating to pensions and benefits for older persons to fulfil the intergenerational contract. But even in countries with generous welfare provisions intergenerational solidarity remains strong.[11] However, even being willing to provide the necessary care is not always enough because family caregivers often need support from integrated formal care services.

29. Intergenerational solidarity finds its expression not only within the context of the family, but also in larger communities among non-familial members. Interactions between these two dimensions are complex and depend on a multitude of factors. Research has demonstrated that positive attitudes and contacts between generations within families do not necessarily lead to intergenerational solidarity

[10] ESCAP ...: report of the Government of China.

[11] See Daatland, S. O. and Lowenstein, A. (2005), "Intergenerational solidarity and the family-welfare state balance", *European Journal of Ageing*, vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 174-182.

within communities.[12] Though intergenerational solidarity may appear natural and result from altruism or good will, bonds between different generations must be created and promoted intentionally.

30. In many countries community is an important source and generator of intergenerational solidarity initiatives. In countries where volunteering is encouraged in schools, volunteer programmes include intergenerational contacts and provide daily care to older persons. Volunteering is also a choice of many older persons willing and able to assist in their community by participating in educational programmes or taking care of children. Intergenerational programmes allow efficient use of community resources and help to eliminate negative consequences of isolated living. This is an important issue in rural areas, where older persons often live alone because of the migration of their children and family members to urban areas and other countries in search of economic opportunities.

31. Intergenerational initiatives exist in many countries but are often the result of local community arrangements rather than specific public policies. Examples of these initiatives include programmes targeting residential arrangements, joint educational programmes, home visits and other services. Care is one of the areas providing various opportunities for intergenerational programmes where individuals of all ages have a role to play. Intergenerationally shared housing is an example of innovative programmes linking generations in residential communities where geographical proximity can create complementary possibilities for intergenerational exchange. Older people provide daycare or wrap-around school care, while the older care programmes provide adult day services, assisted living, or nursing home care. Studies have emphasized the positive effects of these programmes on the overall well-being of all generations while also being cost-effective.[13]

32. The importance of developing and strengthening intergenerational solidarity was stressed in the Madrid Plan of Action, where it was noted as the key element necessary for building societies for all ages where each generation might enjoy equal rights and opportunities. Promoting an intergenerational dimension in policymaking enhances social cohesion and links between generations. An overall intergenerational approach does not call for supplementary resources but rather for a better allocation of existing resources and cross-effectiveness of policies.

33. The Madrid Plan affirms that effective care for older persons should integrate physical, mental, social, spiritual and environmental factors and that family caregiving needs to be strengthened and reinforced by public policy. The Madrid Plan also notes the importance of having a continuum of affordable care options, from family to institutional, and of encouraging the participation of older persons in assessing their own needs and monitoring service delivery.

34. While the institutionalization of older persons should be avoided as a pre-eminent policy option, it should not prevent policymakers from planning for an increasing demand for care for older persons in the coming decades.

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[12] Harwood, J., Hewstone, M., Paolini, S., and Voci, A. (2005), "Grandparent-grandchild contact and attitudes toward older adults: Moderator and mediator effects", *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, No. 31, pp. 393-406.

[13] For example, Jarrott, S. E., and Bruno, K. (2007), "Shared site intergenerational programs: A case study", *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, No. 26, pp. 239-257; Larkin, E., and Newman, S. (2001), "Benefits of intergenerational staffing in preschools", *Educational Gerontology*, No. 27, pp. 373-385.

35. Interesting examples of national care policies exist in Japan and Germany, two of the demographically oldest countries in the world. Each has taken various approaches to introduce laws and programmes aimed at facilitating care and caregiving and both have instituted compensation for family caregivers to support ageing in place.

36. In Japan, promoting individual independence is critical, and support is provided to families to facilitate that. One way this is done is through measures that prevent the institutionalization of older persons. Japan has introduced a long-term care insurance plan, under which systematic improvements have been made to ensure a high-quality care service infrastructure that responds to the needs of older persons who require care. Efforts have included the training of those providing home-based services, such as home helpers, and the development of nursing care-related facilities such as special nursing homes. In addition, amendments to the long-term care insurance law include a range of measures to effect a shift in the existing nursing care system to make it prevention-oriented, a review of the accommodation and meal fees paid by nursing home residents, the establishment of a new service system, and improvement in quality of care service.

37. In response to increasing numbers of older persons in need of care, the Parliament of Germany adopted a long-term care insurance scheme which entered into force in January 1995. The insurance is mandatory, with monthly contributions shared equally by employers and employees, and covers services expected to be needed for six months or more. The need for various levels of activities of daily living are considered when assessing need, e.g. mobility, personal hygiene, meals and housekeeping. The programme allows for informal care at home, ambulatory services at home, partial institutionalization and full institutional care. The Government however, encourages home care over institutionalization. Beneficiaries can select from among three types of services that have different payment systems: (a) cash payments to informal caregivers; (b) formal care services at home (payments made directly to care providers); and (c) institutional care services (payments made directly to care facilities). The Ministry of Health, which administers long-term care insurance, projected that more than 3 million persons will be in need of care by 2040.

38. In general, policy efforts and public relations campaigns should focus on reducing the need for care through the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Care is however an inevitable need, and systems should be established to meet the increasing demand for care worldwide. Since most people prefer to remain in their accustomed environment, ageing in place, facilitated by measures such as those mentioned above should be the primary objective. Formal ambulatory care arrangements as needed should complement the services of informal caregivers. High-quality institutional care should be available when informal and ambulatory care becomes insufficient for meeting the needs of older persons. It is obvious that not all countries around the world have the capacity to provide such a range of care options. However, since all countries have adopted the Madrid Plan of Action, efforts towards an improvement in the situation of older persons in need of care should be expected.

C. Human resources development in health care

39. Access to old-age health care is a key concern in all regions. Building the capacity of the supply of skilled workers is an urgent issue in some regions and

countries. In addition, there are two main aspects with regard to human resources capacity and development that are associated with demographic ageing: (a) an epidemiological transition signifying a shift from communicable diseases which tend to affect younger persons to chronic non-communicable diseases which affect older persons more; and (b) a shortage of trained personnel.

40. With demographic ageing happening faster and over a shorter period of time than it did in developed countries, along with a health-care system that is already lacking in human resource skills and funding, developing countries will face the double burden of addressing the health-care needs of a large young population and the growing needs of older persons. The shift in the types of illnesses that affect older persons means changes in health-care services, and hence the human resource skills that are needed, as well as the focus of medical research.

41. There is an acute lack of even basic gerontological and geriatric training for health-care and social/home aide workers in developing countries. In many countries, physicians still receive no gerontological or geriatric training at all. Even in some developed countries specialist medical geriatricians are in short supply. In many developing countries, but particularly in Africa, basic training courses are urgently needed to sensitize medical and social personnel to the particular needs of older persons. A coordinated effort to address this problem could increase the effectiveness of health-care provision for older persons.

42. There is also the increasingly acute shortage of health and home-care workers because of their emigration from developing to developed countries. Developing countries are experiencing a manpower shortage owing to, among other things, the low pay for the demanding work of health and home-care workers, and the lack of adequate medical supplies. In addition, the brain drain in the medical care profession from developing to developed countries for economic gain exacerbates the already challenged health-care systems in developing countries.[14]

43. Nevertheless, many developing countries have taken important steps to meet the human resources needs for care of older persons. For example, in Sri Lanka, in one pilot project, the caregiving capacity of the family has been improved through trained health volunteers, and under another project, a group of community health nurses has been established with responsibility for care of older persons.[15] In Cambodia, the Ministry of Health has organized training programmes on the basics of quality health care for older persons to provide geriatric skills to public health workers in hospitals and health centres. Furthermore, these health workers will themselves train village health support groups. The Government of Myanmar provides training to basic health staff at rural health centres so they are able to identify the underlying causes of illness that face older persons.[16] In Australia, the Government is taking a comprehensive approach to increase the quality of service provided by care workers, as well as to increase their numbers by providing incentives. This approach includes training to upgrade the skills of care workers, nursing scholarships to encourage more people to take up aged-care nursing and improve career paths, and aged-care worker support to assist those working in small

[14] *World Economic and Social Survey 2007: Development in an Ageing World* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.11.C.1), p. 124.

[15] ESCAP, High-level Meeting on the Regional Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, Macao, China, 2007: report of the Government of Sri Lanka.

[16] ESCAP ...: report of the Government of Myanmar.

facilities or remote locations to upgrade their skills and to encourage more people to work in rural and remote areas.[17]

44. In developing countries, as the number of older persons continues to rise and traditional family support and living arrangements continue to weaken, human resources development to increase the number of skilled workers in the health and age-care industry will become more important.

D. From research on ageing to policy action

45. A review of goals, objectives and recommendations of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as commitments of the Madrid Declaration, reveals the need for a better understanding of the relations between research, policy and social activity in the realm of ageing. In article 11 of the Political Declaration[18] of the Madrid Assembly, Government representatives emphasized the role of international research on ageing and age-related issues as an important instrument for the formulation of policies on ageing.

46. The Madrid Plan identifies research activities and national data collection and analysis for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation as crucial elements of the national implementation process. At the international level, the exchange of researchers and research findings and data collection is listed as one of the priorities for international cooperation on ageing. Evidence-based decision-making is an essential principle of social policy and practice.

47. The interaction between research and policy is a complex process. While policymakers have a powerful interest in enhancing links between research and policy action, numerous external factors determine the content and outcome of research-policy relations. For example, international policy processes, such as efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and formulation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, serve to focus research in certain areas, almost to the exclusion of many other issues. Other global influences such as the agendas of international donors are particularly felt in developing countries, where they often provoke concerns regarding host country ownership, alignment with local priorities, and legitimacy of policy-related research, particularly when decisions are taken outside the host country.

48. The availability of reliable and timely data disaggregated by age, sex, socio-economic status and health status is crucial for evidence-based policy formulation and programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, and remains an urgent requirement and an ongoing challenge for policy development in the area of ageing. At the same time, evidence-based policy action involves much more than simply securing the availability of data. Quantitative and qualitative analysis of collected information from different viewpoints is equally important. Evidence-based decision-making requires research that is credible, topically relevant and operationally useful and is capable of demonstrating the value of new options.[19]

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[17] ESCAP ...: report of the Government of Australia.

[18] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[19] "Bridging Research and Policy in International Development: An Analytical and Practical Framework", RAPID Briefing Paper 1, October 2004 (www.odi.org.uk/rapid).

Such evidence should be free from personal interest, vested interest, or belief.[20] In addition, research findings have to be appropriately presented and thoughtfully communicated to end-users, primarily policymakers, as well as the general public, through an interactive participatory approach. At the same time, the policy process also needs the active participation of stakeholders — the people that will be affected by the policy.

49. However, a better knowledge on ageing — in terms of gerontological research or ageing-related policies — will not automatically create better lives for older persons. To achieve this, the accumulated research evidence must be translated into policy action by government and its partners in civil society. Research evidence has to be supplemented with evidence of societal capacity to address and complete the tasks of adjusting to an ageing world. Appropriately designed mechanisms of policy implementation of age-related policies are vital but often are lacking at the national level.

50. It is equally important to weigh political realities to gain insight into how the public, politicians and media will react to policies aimed at adjusting to an ageing society, because this can help or hinder the success of any policy action. The areas of research, societal capacity and political evidence have to be advanced simultaneously and the obtained knowledge delivered to policymakers in forms they can understand and use so that rhetorical commitments can lead to practical engagement. Advocacy as well as innovative social policy partnerships remain crucial in this regard.

51. Meanwhile, the reality is that research and policy are often disconnected at different levels — the global, regional and national — and communication between policymakers, practitioners and researchers is poor. The result is lack of coordination between the strategic directions of policy and priorities of research. The lack of communication between policymakers and researchers can also be attributed to their different agendas, time horizons and reward systems.[21] The world of research on ageing is also fragmented and there is little evidence of a cohesive approach to defining overall strategies and linking priorities.

52. In order to bridge the gaps between policy and research, and simultaneously provide a framework for consolidation of global studies of ageing, the United Nations Programme on Ageing and the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics have developed a Research Agenda on Ageing for the Twenty-first century. The ultimate goal of the Research Agenda is to support evidence-based implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. In more general terms, the Research Agenda attempts to overcome fragmentation and isolation of research and policy development.

53. A two-pronged approach is needed to improve the evidence-based policy action on ageing: strengthening national capacity and improving international

[20] "What Counts? Interpreting evidence-based decision-making for management and policy", Report of the sixth Annual Workshop of the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, Vancouver, B.C., 2004.

[21] Nutley, S. (2003) "Bridging the Policy/Research Divide: Reflections and Lessons from the UK", Keynote Paper at the National Institute of Governance Conference, "Facing the Future: Engaging stakeholders and citizens in developing public policy", Canberra, 23 and 24 April 2003. Quoted from: Sophie Sutcliffe and Julius Court, "A Toolkit for Progressive Policymakers in Developing Countries", Overseas Development Institute, 2006.

cooperation in the area of policy research on ageing. International technical assistance to support the development of national capacity on ageing has to improve evidence-based policymaking along with the strengthening of institutional capacity in partner countries. International research partnerships should promote an exchange of experiences and instruments among researchers, research funding agencies, and policymakers. In practical terms, it is necessary for policymakers, researchers and practitioners to identify measures for collaborative links between research and policy development and for consolidation of policy-related research on ageing. Such measures could be identified at regional meetings of researchers and policymakers, as was suggested in the conclusions and recommendations of the Research Forum on Ageing convened in León, Spain, on 5 November 2007, before the UNECE Conference on Ageing.

E. Age-friendly environment

54. Two demographic processes — population ageing and urbanization — have both accelerated over the last several decades. As of 2007 over half of the population worldwide lived in cities. The global urban population is forecasted to further increase, and by 2030 about three out of every five people in the world will live in cities, and in developing countries there will be almost four times as many urban dwellers as in developed countries.

55. The proportion of the older people residing in cities in developed countries matches that of younger age groups at about 80 per cent and will rise at the same pace. In developing countries, however, the share of older people in urban communities will multiply 16 times from about 56 million in 1998 to over 908 million in 2050. By that time, older people will comprise one fourth of the total urban population in developing countries.

56. A positive example of participatory bottom-up evaluation of age-sensitive policies is the recent initiative put forward by the World Health Organization (WHO) and reflected in the publication entitled *Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide* (Geneva, 2007). To assess the quality of life of older persons residing in urban environments, focus groups were set up in 33 cities with people aged 60 years and older from lower- and middle-income areas. Although older people were the main source of information in all the 33 cities that conducted focus groups, this information was complemented by focus groups of caregivers. Most cities also conducted focus groups with service providers from the public, voluntary and commercial sectors. Focus group participants reported several examples of age-friendly practices in their cities.

57. While the Guide is aimed primarily at urban planners, older citizens can also use it to monitor progress towards more age-friendly cities. At its heart is a checklist of age-friendly features. For example, to promote city walking and enjoying urban green spaces, an age-friendly city has sufficient public benches that are well-situated, well maintained and safe, as well as sufficient public toilets that are well indicated, clean, secure, and accessible to persons with disabilities.

58. A total of eight areas were explored in the focus group discussions to give a comprehensive picture of each city's age-friendliness. The topics cover the features of the city's structures, environment, services and policies that reflect the determinants of active ageing. The areas were transportation, housing, social

participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, community support and health services, and outdoor spaces and buildings.

59. The WHO Guide is an example of the few good practices of participatory involvement of older persons in policy planning. By covering essential urban issues and by taking seriously the opinions of older persons regarding these various issues, Governments will be in a position to draft policies that truly reflect the needs of older persons. At the same time such policy planning provides a good example of mainstreaming the concerns of older persons into urban planning that will be beneficial for a variety of urban dwellers of different age groups, embracing the concept of intergenerational solidarity.

60. Examples of developing rural age-friendly environments are rare as the focus is often placed exclusively on major cities. The needs of older persons living in rural areas are, however, similar, if not greater. Access to affordable and dependable transport remains the main challenge for rural elderly. Likewise, lack of access to electricity, sanitation and other community services, as well as a severe deficit of geriatric services, may be a major issue for older persons, particularly the frail elderly. Additional difficulties are faced by older persons who have been left behind by migrating family members. Overall, the low levels of income and lack of a supporting infrastructure in rural areas intensify the feeling of marginalization and social exclusion of older persons. In this light intergenerational solidarity and support remain particularly significant. Ensuring access to basic health and social services and connecting rural older persons with the larger economy and society should be a focus of government policy for rural and remote areas.

IV. Planning for the future: conclusions and recommendations

61. The first cycle of the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action is geared to assessing the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in implementing the Plan's recommendations. Equally important is that the review and appraisal exercise will include an analytical component which can reveal the major trends in international policy action on ageing, diagnose missteps and collect replicable good practice.

62. The General Assembly at its sixty-second session[22] has specified the nature and content of the analytical follow-up to the first cycle of the review and appraisal by requesting the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session a strategic implementation framework based on an analysis of national activities since 2002. Such a framework would identify policy priorities for the future as well as measures for international cooperation to support national implementation activities. **The Commission for Social Development may wish to invite Governments and all other major national and international stakeholders to continue their cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as the United Nations global focal point on ageing, in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, including through substantive contributions to the development of the strategic implementation framework. The Commission for Social Development**

[22] See A/62/432, para. 46, draft resolution V.

may wish to request the Secretary-General, in preparing the strategic implementation framework for furthering the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, to consult Governments, intergovernmental organizations, including the organizations of the United Nations system, academia and non-governmental organizations on the substantive and practical content of the framework.

63. The initial contribution in fulfilling the tasks outlined by the General Assembly and the Commission for Social Development was made by Member States at the beginning of their national reviews and appraisals when they, in response to Commission for Social Development resolution 44/1, identified actions they had taken since the Second World Assembly on Ageing, as well as specific areas for in-depth participatory inquiries using a bottom-up approach.

64. Regional priorities, along with the analysis of emerging issues and responses, have been identified in the regional conferences held within the context of the first cycle of the review and appraisal. Thus the national and regional phases of the first cycle are envisaged to provide core analytical information for the formulation of the strategic implementation framework. Significant inputs could emanate from independent review and appraisal exercises undertaken by civil society, including academia and NGOs.

65. A crucial contribution to the elaboration of the strategic framework will be provided by the Commission for Social Development at its forty-sixth session in 2008, where, in accordance with Commission resolution 45/1, Governments and other major stakeholders will organize parallel and satellite events, including panel discussions, seminars and round tables, to explore the findings of the review and appraisal exercise and to promote future priorities for implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action.

66. The bodies and organizations of the United Nations system have actively participated in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and the first cycle of its review and appraisal by providing substantive input into the implementation process, as well as by offering technical assistance to Governments in strengthening their national capacity on ageing. In addition, the regional commissions played a central role in consolidating, during various regional events such as regional conferences, the findings of national reviews and appraisals. It is therefore essential that the United Nations system continue to participate in the global implementation efforts, including contributing to the elaboration of the strategic implementation framework. **In this connection, the Commission for Social Development may wish to request the Secretary-General to consider the necessary measures to improve the institutional capacity of the United Nations system, including, inter alia, the maintenance and strengthening of focal points on ageing, to fulfil their responsibilities for furthering the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and elaboration of the strategic implementation framework for the Plan.**

67. The preparation of the strategic implementation framework is therefore envisaged as a consultative process of receiving and analysing contributions from various stakeholders and development by the United Nations Secretariat of a draft document which would be reviewed and consolidated at a meeting of independent experts in 2008 and submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session in 2009.

68. At this stage and until the conclusion of the first cycle of the review and appraisal exercise at the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development in 2008, only general proposals can be made regarding the content of the strategic implementation framework. The future strategy document would include the analysis of the major findings of the first cycle of the review and appraisal, together with the identification of principal advancements, as well as obstacles encountered during the first five years of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. Particular attention would be paid to detecting policies that work in different settings and developmental contexts and to revealing replicable good practices. The implementation framework would also identify major prevailing trends on ageing and policy priorities to respond to the new and continuing challenges and opportunities of population and individual ageing.

69. It should be emphasized that the future strategic framework will not attempt to revise the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, formulate new priority directions or establish new goals and targets. Instead, the strategy will strive to identify a specific focus for the next stage of the implementation process and propose viable policy measures to streamline the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action towards the end of its first decade in 2012. In this regard, the strategic implementation framework should be viewed as a promotional document rather than a technical one.

70. Measures to improve technical cooperation on ageing should be a particular concern in the future implementation framework. The principal task of international cooperation on ageing is to direct the available, and often limited, resources to where they are most needed, particularly to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Simultaneously, effective and efficient international cooperation, particularly technical cooperation, should strive to ensure that the international policy documents on ageing are being translated into practical programmes and projects with fruitful results. Viable arrangements for an international technical cooperation network should be based on the agreed principles of international policy documents and should ensure the ongoing reciprocal links between normative provisions and practical work in the field. **The Commission for Social Development may wish to emphasize that the strategic implementation framework should include proposals for improving international cooperation on ageing to support implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action.**

United Nations E/CN.5/2008/7/Corr.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 December 2007

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-sixth session
6-15 February 2008
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

First review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: preliminary assessment

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

1. Paragraph 17, third sentence

For other persons *read* older persons

2. Paragraph 19, third sentence

For older key social priorities *read* other key social priorities

* E/CN.5/2008/1.

07-66126 (E) 070108

United Nations E/CN.5/2008/8

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 November 2007

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-sixth session
6-15 February 2008
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretariat on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

Introduction

1. The present note has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/143 of 19 December 2006 as a background for discussion through which to address the issue of violence against women within the framework of the mandates of the Commission for Social Development during its forty-sixth session. As the priority theme of the forty-sixth session of the Commission is "Promoting full employment and decent work for all", this note focuses on the areas of employment and work.

2. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women had been adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, which recognizes that violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.

3. In its resolution 58/185 of 22 December 2003, the General Assembly mandated an in-depth study on all forms and manifestations of violence against women, demonstrating the great importance that States Members of the United Nations attach to addressing the issue of violence against women. Following the release of the in-depth report of the Secretary-General entitled *Ending Violence against Women: From Words to Action*,[1] the Assembly, in its resolution 61/143 of 19 December 2006, invited, inter alia, the Economic and Social Council and its

* E/CN.5/2008/1.

[1] United Nations publication Sales No. E.06.IV.8.

07-60548 (E) 111207

functional commissions to discuss, by 2008, within their respective mandates, the question of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations.

The link between discrimination and violence against women

4. Violence against women is a form of discrimination and a violation of human rights that is not confined to a particular culture, region or country, or a particular group of women in a society (see *Ending Violence against Women*). It cuts across all cultural, economic and social differences. Women's lack of economic autonomy in society and in the family often results in other forms of inequalities and discrimination against them. These economic and social inequalities are at the root of the unequal power relations between men and women that underlie all forms of violence against women.

5. General recommendation No. 19 (adopted) by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eleventh session in 1992,[2] the treaty body monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] explicitly stated that violence against women constitutes a form of gender-based discrimination and that discrimination is a major cause of such violence.

6. Gender-based discrimination in the realm of employment and work is intrinsically linked to violence against women and leads to significant inequalities between the sexes. Lack of equal employment opportunities for women and unequal pay for equal work are two major manifestations of gender-based discrimination in the labour market.

7. Unsafe working conditions and abuse of workers' rights in the workplace are often directly linked to violence against women workers. Women's relatively weak bargaining power also makes them more vulnerable to discrimination and abuses and other forms of violence in the workplace. Discrimination and violence against women are frequently allowed to continue unabated.

8. All forms of violence against women tend to re-enforce discrimination in the labour market. Direct consequences of violence against women include physical and psychological injuries, trauma and stress. These often result in absence from work or reduced productivity, factors that could lead to the loss of employment or become excuses for discriminatory treatment of women workers in general.

9. The link between discrimination in the world of work and violence against women implies that employment policy should be an important component of an integrated strategy to combat violence against women. Addressing gender-based inequalities and discrimination in employment can make a critical contribution towards efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women through the economic empowerment of women.

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[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/47/38), chap. I.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Promoting full employment and decent work for all: combating the cause of violence against women at its root

10. The promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all necessarily requires the removal of discrimination based on factors such as gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability and other socio-economic characteristics. An explicit gender perspective, when incorporated into the policy framework, helps to strengthen the impact of labour-market policies on the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

11. Addressing gender-based discrimination in the area of employment through promoting productive employment and decent work for all, especially for women, will lead to the economic empowerment of women. This will, in turn, help redress the unequal power relations between men and women that lie at the very core of gender-based violence. To some extent, gender-sensitive labour-market policies and measures aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and removing barriers to women's full and equal participation in productive employment and decent work constitute some of the most potent tools for eliminating all forms of violence against women, by attacking the problem at its root.

12. Since the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, important progress in the promotion of women's economic rights and independence has been made as a result of national and international actions. Based on the latest data collected by the International Labour Organization (ILO),[4] it has been determined that women's participation in the labour force has maintained an upward trend in all regions of the world except in non-European Union countries of Europe and Central Asian countries. Women's share in total paid employment has increased in all regions of the world, signalling greater economic independence of women. However, progress in reducing the gender gaps in high-status jobs and in pay has been much slower, despite remarkable advances in women's educational achievement. The ILO analysis identifies gender-based discrimination in remuneration as a key determinant of the gender disparity in pay.

13. The *Report on the World Social Situation 2007 (forthcoming)* reviewed four issues that affect the status of women in the world of work: (a) women's participation in the labour force, (b) women's participation in the informal sector, (c) occupational segregation and (d) reconciliation of work and family responsibilities. The report concluded that increased female employment has been paralleled in some countries by deterioration in the terms and conditions of employment in many areas.

14. Specifically, women tend to be overrepresented in the informal sector and self-employment where jobs are lower-paying and less secure. Yet, women are less likely than men to be covered by social security schemes. Horizontal and vertical occupational segregation also continues to hinder the achievement of gender equality in employment. Occupations traditionally engaged in by women pay less than jobs requiring similar skill levels but occupied predominately by men. In

[4] See *International Labour Organization, Equality at Work: Tackling the Challenges* (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2007). Global report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: report I (B) of the Director-General, International Labour Conference, 96th Session, 2007.

virtually all countries, women are overrepresented in the service sector.[5] Women's traditional role as caregivers also presents great difficulties for them in terms of balancing work and family responsibilities. Policy measures aimed at women (rather than parents or caregivers), however, can reinforce the perception that women are responsible for household work.

15. The greatest disadvantage for women, compared with men, is that they must balance labour-market work with domestic work. All policies should be mindful of the need to support both women and men in their multiple roles and to break the stereotypes of gender roles in order to promote the empowerment of women through equal participation in the labour force. At the same time, policies and measures designed to address the gender pay gap are also urgently needed to eliminate gender-based discrimination in the labour market.

16. As a starting point, gender bias should be eliminated in job evaluation methods to ensure that jobs typically performed by women are given their due value and are remunerated accordingly. Such revaluation of "women's work" will help narrow the gender gap in pay while also contributing to raising the status of women and men performing these jobs, which would strengthen their positions in power relations.

17. Fairness and gender equality, rights, voice and recognition are all important elements of the concept of decent work. Promoting productive employment and decent work for all should therefore be a critical component of an integrated strategy to eliminate all forms of violence against women. This also entails mainstreaming a gender perspective in labour-market and employment policies to maximize their contribution to efforts aimed at eliminating violence against women in all its manifestations.

Policy framework

18. An integrated set of immediate and longer-terms policies is necessary to promote gender equality at the workplace, a prerequisite for the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Some measures and policies have been shown to work. It is necessary to build on past successes and lessons to formulate employment-related policies and strategies that will contribute positively to further intensifying efforts to root out violence against women.

19. In the immediate short run, some needed policy measures can be instituted to address issues of gender inequality in the workplace. They may include:

- Family-friendly measures to help women and men better balance family responsibilities and the demand of work
- Development and adoption of job evaluation methods free of gender biases
- Incorporation of a gender perspective in legislation and regulations aimed at protecting the rights of workers, including migrant workers, so as to prevent abuse of and violence against women workers in the workplace

[5] Anker, Richard, "Occupational segregation: lack of opportunities, inequality and discrimination", paper presented at the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Full Employment and Decent Work, 10-12 October 2006, New York.

- Utilization of gender impact analysis to ensure that social and economic policies, especially those related to employment and work, contribute to the prevention and elimination of violence against women, instead of exacerbating it.

20. In the medium to long term, additional policies should be adopted to promote the economic empowerment of women, thereby contributing to an integrated strategy to eliminate all forms of violence against women. Among the social and economic policy measures that can have a long-term impact on the deep-rooted power imbalances underpinning violence against women are the following, which relate closely to employment, the priority theme of the present session of the Commission for Social Development:

- Enactment of legislation securing women's rights to property, inheritance, credit and social security, among the full range of social and economic rights, so as to empower women and to support entrepreneurship among women
- Assumption and fulfilment of States' responsibility to coordinate and build an integrated strategy to end all forms of violence against women, including comprehensive labour-market policies and regulations aimed at eliminating gender-based discrimination in the realm of employment and work
- Education and training programmes to strengthen women's capacity and core labour market skills in order to improve their employability and bargaining ability
- Provision of support to informal sector workers, including social protection coverage, legal protection and voice representation
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all employment and labour market-related policies, as well as all other social and economic policies with a bearing on labour-market outcomes, so as to promote gender equality.

United Nations E/CN.5/2008/8*

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 December 2007

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-sixth session
6-15 February 2008
Item 3 of the provisional agenda**
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

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07-60548* (E) 100108

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United Nations E/CN.5/2008/9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 November 2007

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-sixth session
6-15 February 2008
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011: subprogramme 3, Social policy and development

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The Commission has before it, for its consideration, a note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011 for Subprogramme 3, Social policy and development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs. The Commission is invited to review the proposed strategic framework and to provide its comments. The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-eighth session. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session when it considers the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011.

* E/CN.5/2007/L.2

07-61755 (E) 171207

1. The proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011 for subprogramme 3, Social policy and development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, is as follows:

Subprogramme 3: Social policy and development

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen international cooperation, raise awareness about the importance of social development and enhance national capacity, with particular attention to poverty eradication, employment generation and social integration, especially with due regard to issues relating to older persons, persons with disabilities, family, youth and indigenous peoples.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) International debate and agreements facilitated on major social development issues on the agendas of the United Nations intergovernmental processes	(a) (i) Percentage of proposed recommendations used in the formulation of resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions (ii) Increased number of programmes in the United Nations system devoted to social development issues
(b) Strengthening of the capacity of Member States and of civil society to develop and implement social programmes and policies	(b) (i) Increased number of national personnel trained to implement social policies at the national and community levels (ii) Increased number of social policy measures taken by countries to promote poverty eradication, employment generation, social protection, social spending and social integration
(c) Better understanding and awareness by Governments, civil society and the private sector of issues of social development	(c) (i) Improved and timely access to United Nations research and analysis information (ii) Increased number of multi-stakeholder events on issues relating to social development

Strategy

2. The Division for Social Policy and Development is responsible for Subprogramme 3. The strategy will include:

(a) Promoting greater awareness of and supporting the integrated follow-up to and the implementation, within the overall orientation provided by the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, of the commitments agreed upon at relevant United Nations conferences and summits, especially the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the mandates and recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

and the major international action plans, in particular the International Plan of Action on Ageing, as well as other programmes of action, notably on persons with disabilities and youth, and mandates contained in General Assembly resolutions, such as those related to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, with emphasis on greater integration of social and economic concerns and objectives in policymaking;

(b) Strengthening research and analysis, improving, rationalizing and streamlining existing methods of work and facilitating the involvement of civil society in intergovernmental processes with a view, inter alia, to enhancing effective functioning of intergovernmental and expert bodies, including the work of the Commission for Social Development and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

(c) Advocating and promoting understanding of and support for emerging issues in social development through research, analysis and reporting on policy options in close collaboration and coordination with other United Nations entities to achieve social development in order to present evidence-based policy recommendations to Member States;

(d) Providing technical advisory services at the regional and national levels through training and capacity-building;

(e) Raising civil society awareness and facilitating civil society support for the work of the United Nations on social development.